

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An annular plate is attached to a drum-type wheel so that the interior of the wheel is no longer exposed to the outside environment. The outside circumference of the plate is connected either to the edges of the drum or to the inner sidewalls that connect the drum to the hub. The inside circumference of the plate is connected to the wheel hub or hub extension. Gussets located on the outside of the plate deflect debris. If the plate is made from heavy material, such as structural steel, it will protect the sidewalls from operational, environmental damage.